

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

---



Captain Jeff DeVere  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: October 3, 2005**

**Contact: Government and Media Relations**

**Phone: (360) 753-5299**

## **WSP Takes Home Third Place in National Highway Safety Awards Competition**

The Washington State Patrol was the third place winner in the “National Chief’s Challenge” an annual law enforcement competition sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Chief John Batiste accepted the award at the annual meeting in Miami last week. This recognition is for the calendar year 2004.

The National Chief’s Challenge program was created to recognize law enforcement organizations that are successful in their traffic law enforcement and safety efforts. The program tasks agencies to excel in traffic safety enforcement and make a measurable difference in their communities by targeting three crucial traffic safety priorities: Occupant Protection, Impaired Driving and Speeding.

In 2004, the WSP issued 236,391 speeding citations and made 323,626 speed warnings to citizens, made 23,335 arrests for impaired driving and issued 67, 415 safety belt citations. During 2004, the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission reported that seat belt compliance statewide was 95%.

Agencies competing for the Chief’s Challenge compete against similar sized agencies in several different categories (state, county, municipal, and specialized departments) based on the number of sworn personnel. The State Patrol’s third place standing was in the category for state police agencies (1001-1600 or more sworn officers). The Maryland State Police took home the first place award, with Louisiana State Police taking second and the WSP tying with Missouri for third. The WSP has been recognized by the IACP in recent years, taking home first place in 2003 and in 2000.

“This recognition is a testament to the efforts of each and every employee of the State Patrol,” explained WSP Chief Batiste. “I could not be prouder of this accomplishment by our team of professionals, who see our mission of saving lives and protecting our quality of life as their number one priority.”

# # #